



Montana Economic Developers Association

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**TO: HOUSE FEDERAL RELATIONS, ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS
COMMITTEE
Rep. Alan Olson, Chair**

RE: HB 715 Support research and development of energy sources

The Montana Economic Developers Association (MEDA) represents over 200 professionals who work for local economic development organizations across the State of Montana. We are professional "lead" economic developers, business specialists, government employees, and staff members of affiliated non-profit organizations which promote and foster economic development activities in Montana.

MEDA strongly supports HB715 as we believe Montana's future development will revolve around the wise usage, research and development of our energy sources. As a result of HB715, Montana's established and successful Research and Commercialization program would be able to address coal research and development projects as well.

As Montana's future is closely connected to the wise utilization of our natural resources, MEDA strongly encourages your support of HB715.

Sincerely,

Rick Edwards, President

Cc: MEDA Board of Directors

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